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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,114	12/12/2001	Christopher M. Hobot	P-10137	7746
27581	7590	01/12/2005		EXAMINER
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARKWAY NE MS-LC340 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-5604				HO, UYEN T
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/016,114	HOBOT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho	3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3-12 and 14-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3-12 and 14-24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. Herewith.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The telephone interview on 1/6/05, Examiner suggests applicants to add limitations of claims 4 and 10 in claim 1 in order to over come the cited art and cancel all claim contain new matter. However, after a careful reconsideration, art rejection is made as follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The subject matter "second material includes barium sulfate particles" is not disclosed in specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-19, 20, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garabedian et al. (6,171,295) in view of Sarkis et al. (5,921,933). Garabedian et al. disclose a catheter comprising a polymer material and a braided reinforcing member comprising radiopaque material. Garabedian et al. fail to disclose the polymer material including echogenic material such as tungsten carbide particle. Sarkis et al. disclose a catheter having an echogenic portion of enhanced visibility in an ultrasound scan wherein the echogenic portion including polymer containing particles of material having a specific gravity of 5 or greater. Although, Sarkis et al. do not list tungsten carbide in a nanometer size particle having gravity of 5 or greater, it is known in the art that tungsten carbide in a nanometer size particle having gravity of 5 or greater. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ particles having a specific gravity of 5 or greater such as tungsten carbide into Garabedian catheter in order to locate the catheter in a body vessel by an ultrasound scan as well.

6. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-19, 20, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graf et al. (US 2001/0037065) in view of Garabedian et al. (6,171,295). Graft et al. fail to disclose a tungsten carbide particle and a braided reinforcing member including radiopaque material. Garabedian et al. disclose a braided reinforcing member including radiopaque material. Tungsten carbide is a well known radiopaque material in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ tungsten carbide into Graf et al.'s introducer sheath. Doing so would amount to mere substitution of one

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material for another within the same art that would perform equally well in Graft et al.'s introducer sheath. In regard to the braided reinforcing member, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ a braided reinforcing member as disclosed by Garabedian into Graft et al.'s introducer sheath in order to enhance the kink resistance.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho whose telephone number is 571-272-4696. The examiner can normally be reached on MULTIFLEX Mon. to Sat..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ANHTUAN NGUYEN can be reached on 571-272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3731

January 10, 2005